Autumn Internationals: Ben Curry Faces Surgery Setback

England flanker Ben Curry might require additional surgery and a six-week respite to address a hamstring ailment that could endanger his availability for the Autumn Internationals Test matches. Curry, whose sibling Tom is recuperating from hand surgery, hobbled off during Sale Sharks' 28-16 loss at Bath with the hamstring still generating concern.

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Sale's director of rugby, Alex Sanderson, conceded that the injury might necessitate further clinical treatment. The issue centers on the stitch location from a prior procedure, leaving Curry with two choices: to persist through the discomfort or opt for surgery, which would demand a six-week hiatus.

The timing of this setback is particularly frustrating, as Curry had recently returned to peak conditioning following months of focused rehabilitation. His absence could deal a serious blow to both club and country, especially with England's coaching staff eager to establish consistency ahead of a challenging run of fixtures this autumn.

Sanderson acknowledged that England will possess substantial influence in the decision, since Curry holds one of the Enhanced EPS agreements. They might elect to request him to continue competing through the Autumn Tests and subsequently undergo the procedure, enabling him to be ready for the Six Nations.

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Nevertheless, that approach would exclude Curry from club involvement in both the Premiership and the Investec Champions Cup. Sanderson stated that the irritation remains near the stitch spot, impairing Curry’s readiness, and discussions are underway to find a more enduring remedy instead of managing the problem week by week, which clearly isn’t serving him.

One possibility is to bench him and allow the muscle to calm down, but that route has been tried before, and yet the issue reemerges. According to the expert’s practice, this situation has only occurred twice previously; one player simply carried on, while another had the stitch excised and endured weeks away.

He suffered the hamstring reattachment surgery in May 2023 and has since checked with the expert again. England is informed of the various scans undertaken to resolve the issue. The proposed surgery would really be a cleanup from the prior process, involving around twelve days of sutures and a total six-week recovery period.

Both tactics offer possible remedies, yet the club is attempting to determine what is truly optimal for Ben. England might desire to drive him through the internationals first, then perform the surgery over the Christmas period, allowing him to return fit

for the Six Nations. That plan might be the optimal scenario for the national side if the focus remains purely on the Autumn International 2025 duty.

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However, from a club perspective, it may be preferable for him to participate in a few matches and finalize the surgery during the Autumn internationals to ensure his availability later in the season. Sanderson emphasized that Curry’s dedication to recovery and his professionalism make him a key figure in the dressing room, both as a leader and an example to younger teammates.

His mental strength, according to staff, has been instrumental in managing setbacks throughout his career. For emerging England athletes, the Autumn selection contest feels like a sprint. A cluster of merely five Premiership matches separates the commencement of the fresh season from the opening November international against England Vs Australia.

There exists no warm-up training camp this year, as was customary in preceding seasons. In principle, all players ought to be available for their clubs during the round of fixtures the weekend before the Wallabies arrive at Twickenham. To alleviate this compressed schedule, head coach Steve Borthwick has endeavored to arrange a few briefer assemblies.

He likely already maintains concrete concepts about his November selections, yet continues to monitor domestic performance closely, ensuring form remains a decisive factor in his final squad choices. With so many players pushing for recognition and England aiming to build momentum ahead of the Six Nations, Curry’s condition could influence both selection balance and tactical planning.

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